

# THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW.

---

No. 2—April, 1906.

---

## I.

### TERTULLIAN AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

#### THIRD ARTICLE.

**I**N a discussion printed in the two immediately preceding numbers of this REVIEW \* it has been pointed out that there is discoverable in Tertullian's modes of statement a rather distinct advance towards the conception of an immanent Trinity. We wish now to inquire how far this advance is to be credited to Tertullian himself, and how far it represents modes of thought and forms of statement current in his time, and particularly observable in Tertullian only because he chanced to be dealing with themes which invited a fuller expression than ordinary of this side of the faith of Christians.

We have already seen that there is a large traditional element in Tertullian's teaching; that even the terms, "Trinity" and "Economy," in which his doctrine of the distinctions within the Godhead is enshrined, are obviously used by him as old and well-known terms; and that he betrays no consciousness of enunciating new conceptions in his development of his doctrine, but rather writes like a man who is opposing old truth to new error.

\* THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW, October, 1905, pp. 529-557; January, 1906, pp. 1-36.

dents have pointed out that military strategy alone did not determine the choice of route, but the purpose evidently existed to avoid the gorge of the Arnon, enumbered as they were with their families and their herds. The photographs and the description of the chasm furnished by Libbey and Hoskins make vivid and impressive, as probably nothing else has done, the absolute necessity compelling the Israelites to seek an easier crossing.

But scholars are placed under greatest obligation by the work done at Petra, known in Old Testament times by its Hebrew equivalent Sela. The few travelers scarcely a score, who have succeeded in visiting the place in modern times have paid only the most hurried visits. Libbey and Hoskins, on the other hand, were encamped in the valley for five days and nights, under full government recognition and ample protection; and they conducted the most thorough and extensive examination ever made. They noted and explored a road not before remarked by travelers; found the explanation of the preservation of the great high place and the geological possibility of its great antiquity; discovered a second high place, at a lower elevation, conformably to customs existing elsewhere; and report that two trails, leading to the city from the outside world, in addition to the entrance through the Sik, were really roads and of such importance as to have been paved by the Romans. And Prof. Libbey from an examination of the geological features of the region promulgates, and with a substantial array of facts defends, a new theory of the Jordan Valley and its puzzling peculiarities. The theory has the merit of simplicity and intelligibility. It remains for geologists to examine it and pass judgment concerning its fitness to be regarded as the final explanation.

Some trifling flaws may be mentioned. Commas are sprinkled too plentifully over the pages, sometimes without reason. The spelling is eclectic. Jehosphat, Zebulon, Elizabeth and Zachariah are not found in the English Bible, though they appear here in naming a king, a tribe of Israel and the parents of John the Baptist (vol. I, pp. 270, 273, 274; vol. II, pp. 61). The identification of a biblical site is sometimes assumed too positively. It is open to grave doubt whether the modern Ahsa is the brook Zered (vol. II, p. 248). The identification of Jebel Haroun with Mount Hor by no means commands the assent of scholars to the degree which the emphatic assertion on page 243 of volume II would lead one to suppose. But these defects are small and quite incidental. The narrative of this journey is a considerable contribution to man's knowledge of the topography, archæology and geology of Petra and the Jordan Valley.

*Princeton.*

JOHN D. DAVIS.

COMPENDIOUS SYRIAC GRAMMAR. By THEODOR NÖLDEKE, Professor of Oriental Languages, University of Strassburg. With a Table of Characters by JULIUS EUTING. Translated (with the sanction of the author) from the Second and Improved German Edition by JAMES A. CRICHTON, D.D. London: Williams & Norgate, 14 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. 1904. Price 18s. net.

This is not the place to criticise the original grammar of Theodor Nöldeke, except to say that the remark of the translator in his preface is now generally accepted, to wit: that Nöldeke's Syrian Grammar is the "leading modern" grammar of the Syriac, and that "it may be regarded as authoritative and leading" and its "pre-eminent position" hardly "open to challenge." In fact, with the exception of Duval, no other grammar has the same purpose and range—of those at least which have been written within the last generation.

Of the merits of the translation, we have naught but the highest praise. We can heartily join in the thanks of the original author for the "care and ability" with which Dr. Crichton has performed his task. In view of the very useful addi-

tion of the full and lengthy index of passages cited in the grammar, it would have been fair to the translator if some allusion to this valuable labor had been made upon the title-page. For the purposes for which the writer of this review usually consults a grammar like Prof. Nöldeke's, its usefulness would have been much augmented had a thorough *Index rerum* been added. The table of contents at the beginning of the volume does not answer fully the demands of one who uses a grammar like this for reference. Few men have time so completely to master the contents as to find for themselves all which the grammar contains on a given subject. Besides, having done so much and done it so well, it seems a pity that the utmost possible utility of so good a book should be diminished in the least for lack of so easily prepared and so comparatively inexpensive an additional facility as such an index would have been. However, this growl is not at the lack of marrow in the bone, but at the difficulty in getting readily at it. And so, thanking once again the translator for his admirable rendering of an incomparable original, we end this review by commending the book reviewed to all those who wish to perfect themselves in the greatest of Aramaic tongues.

Princeton.

R. D. WILSON.

SELF-CONTROL: ITS KINGSHIP AND MAJESTY. By WILLIAM GEORGE JORDAN.  
New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. 16mo; pp. 192.

This series of essays, first published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, comes to us in permanent form. They are full of striking epigrammatic passages; as, "When a man fails in life he usually says, 'I am as God made me.' When he succeeds he proudly proclaims himself a 'self-made man.'" "The banknote that is the most difficult to counterfeit successfully is the one that contains the fewest lines and has the least intricate detail." "Showing how a family degenerated from a noble ancestor of generations ago to the present representative is not a boast; it is unnecessary confession." "If your life has led you to doubt the existence of honor in man and virtue in woman; if you feel that religion is a pretense, that spirituality is a sham, that life is a failure, and death the entrance to nothingness; if you have absorbed all the poison philosophy of the world's pessimists, and committed the folly of believing it—don't syndicate it. If your fellow-man be clinging to one frail spar, the last remnant of a noble shipwrecked faith in God and humanity, let him keep it. Do not loosen his fingers from this hope, and tell him it is a delusion. How do you know? Who told you it was?" Especially noteworthy are the essays on the "Power of Personal Influence" and on "Failure as a Success." However, one rises from these pages with the impression that the book itself is an example of the thing which it decries. It preaches the gospel of the "Simple Life," but does so in the style of its most strenuous advocate. One misses the quiet literary mastery of Irving or Lamb.

Princeton.

W. B. SHEDDAN.

PHYLLIS BURTON. By Mrs. S. R. GRAHAM CLARK. Philadelphia: Griffith & Rowland Press. 16mo; pp. 489.

It is a common charge that the Sunday-school books used to be so unnatural that they perverted the taste of their readers. Evidently that style of book still survives. A girl who takes a wild ride to save full-grown men from walking into an unbridged stream in broad daylight, and who is taken to Europe by a rich stranger for apparently no reason at all, exists only in a morbid imagination. The religious life depicted is no more natural. Better put *Little Women* and *The Mill on the Floss* and *The Scarlet Letter* in the Sunday-school library.

Princeton.

W. B. SHEDDAN.